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## In Memoriam, Alan Holoch

Alan Holoch served as Director of The Ohio State University Law Library from 1987 to 1991. He was a talented and effective librarian. More importantly, he was an exceptional human being, and a consummate teacher.

As a professional librarian and library administrator, Alan's first concern was for his staff. He aggressively supported an expanded program of professional development for Ohio State law librarians, argued for better working conditions and benefits for these individuals, and urged a more complete integration of professional librarians into the life of the law school. Alan also cared deeply about service to users of the law library collection. The library was to be run for them, not as an end in itself. And he was comfortable with, indeed seemed to embrace, newly developed information technologies. In all these respects, he was a prototypical modernist among law librarians, and as a consequence a leader among his counterparts.

One of Alan's most lasting contributions to Ohio State was his dedicated and very successful involvement in the design of the library space in our new building addition. Doubling the size of an already substantial facility, especially one over thirty years in age, is not an easy task. But Alan worked at it, and kept working at it, until it was done correctly. Even the architects, not always the kindest judges of the efforts of the uninitiated, were enthusiastic in their praise. The library administrative wing of the new addition, containing the director's and associate director's offices and a conference room and lounge, will be named in Alan's memory when the enlarged facility is dedicated in 1993.

But Alan was much more than a competent professional. He was a gentle, caring person who shed light instead of cursing darkness. Why cancer took him at the young age of 43 is difficult for his colleagues and friends to understand. Alan probably had difficulty understanding this as well, but he never—to me at least—said so. He lived a very full life to the end, traveling to places he wanted to visit, but staying in touch with the law library at the same time. He taught all of us who knew him much by the courage with which he faced death. But he taught us more about living by the way he lived, with death approaching.

All of us at Ohio State and especially in the College of Law will miss him greatly. But we won't forget him. He touched this place, and all of us, and made it, and us, the better for it. To borrow a phrase from Housman's classic poem about dying young, Alan is now the "townsman of a stiller town." Yet, in our memories, he will be a lasting member of the law school communities he served over the past two decades—Southern California, Villanova and Ohio State—in the time, far too brief, he was among us.

Dean Francis X. Beytagh  
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